

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the second paragraph beginning on page 3, line 8, which starts with “Figure 1” with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 1 illustrates an image path of a typical scanner or multifunction device;
and

Please replace the third paragraph beginning on page 3, line 10, which starts with “Figure 2” with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 2 illustrates the usage of additional channels for enhancing the black & white image quality in accordance with the present ~~invention~~ embodiment;

Please add the following two new paragraphs on page 3, starting at line 12, which is immediately after the third paragraph beginning on page 3, line 10:

Figure 3 illustrates the image-processing functions of an output image processing module in accordance with the present embodiment; and

Figure 4 illustrates different de-screen filters with various cut-off frequencies and enhancement filters used with an output image processing module in accordance with the present embodiment.

Please add the following two new paragraphs on page 4, starting at line 24, which is immediately after the first paragraph beginning on page 4, line 5, which starts with "Attention is now directed...":

In an embodiment, a method is used improve quality of black and white images of tag-based color imaging systems in a color image path. The method comprises a) receiving data processed from an input image; b) receiving image analysis tags associated with the pixels of said input image data; c) providing said tags to each channel of said image processing module to control image processing; d) performing image processing on said image data to provide a video signal output thereof; e) replicating said video output signal on all output channels of said image processing module; f) merging each video signal from each of said output channels based on the tags; and g) outputting said merged video signal. FIG. 3 illustrates a specific embodiment of element 20 in FIG. 2. With respect to FIG. 3, the output image processing module 120 retrieves the image data stored in memory. Image-processing functions such as filtering, Tonal Reproduction Curves or TRCs, and/or Rendering are performed therein based on the various segmentation tags stored therewith associated with each pixel of the image.

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